

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS APPOINTED TO INFLUENTIAL POSTS IN MEDIA AND
CULTURE

REF: LISBON A-93

1. TWO IMPORTANT POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED IN THE LAST
TWO WEEKS BY COMMUNISTS.

2. AGENCIA NACIONAL DE IMPRENSA (ANI), THE PORTUGUESE
NEWS AGENCY, WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER 8
AND JOURNALIST ALBERTO VILAVERDE CABRAL WAS NAMED THE
AGENCY'S DIRECTOR.

3. VILAVERDE CABRAL, 32, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS ARRESTED
BY THE DGS SOME FIVE YEARS AGO FOR SUSPICION OF CIRCULATING
COMMUNIST LITERATURE AND WAS DEPRIVED OF SLEEP FOR FIVE
DAYS AND NIGHTS. HE TOLD A CORRESPONDENT OF THE NEW YORK
TIMES SOME WEEKS AFTER THE REVOLUTION THAT HE IS A
COMMUNIST AND THAT HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARTY FOR
SOME YEARS. UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF ANI,
HE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WRITER FOR THE LEFTWING
AFTERNOON TABLOID "DIARIO DE LISBOA." FOLLOWING
THE COUP OF APRIL 25 HE WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF NEWS
PROGRAMMING AT THE PORTUGUESE TELEVISION STATION (RTP)
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BUT LOST THIS JOB TO A SOCIALIST IN THE CONTINUING

STRUGGLE FOR POWER AT RTP. HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON U.S. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS. HE TOOK PART IN THE USIA/STATE ECONOMIC JOURNALIST TOUR LAST FEBRUARY AND, ACCORDING TO THE USIA ESCORT, WAS AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE GROUP. HE IS TOUGH, ARTICULATE AND COMMITTED. HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF ANI IS TANTAMOUNT IN FRENCH TERMS TO A COMMUNIST BEING APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

4. THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW TAKEN OVER ANI HAS LITTLE REAL SIGNIFICANCE. PRIOR TO APRIL 25, THE FICTION WAS MAINTAINED THAT ANI WAS A PRIVATELY OWNED NEWS AGENCY. FACT IS, IT WAS THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE SALAZAR-CAETANO REGIMES. THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF NOVEMBER 8 DEFINES AND BRINGS OUT IN THE OPEN A RELATIONSHIP WHICH FOOLED NO ONE IN THE PAST. AS ONE OF THE NEWS ACCOUNTS STATED, "ANI HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANTI-FASCIST ORGAN," OR, AS ONE PORTUGUESE OBSERVER PUT IT, "THE GOP NOW HAS ITS OWN TASS."

5. THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR HAPPINESS IN WORK (FNAT), A BREAD-AND-CIRCUSES INSTITUTION ESTABLISHED BY SALAZAR IN THE LATE 1940'S TO KEEP THE MINDS OF THE WORKERS OFF THEIR STEADILY DIMINISHING STANDARD OF LIVING, ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 30 A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AMONG THEM IS ACTOR ROGERIO PAULO.

6. FNAT HAS, INTER ALIA, A FOOTBALL STADIUM AND A THEATER, THE TRINDADE. PAULO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE THEATRICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TRINDADE.

7. DURING THE SALAZAR PERIOD PAULO WAS OFTEN IN TROUBLE WITH THE POLITICAL POLICE. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT HE WAS ARRESTED, BEATEN, AND PROHIBITED FROM ACTING IN PUBLIC.

8. DURING THE 1968-69 "CAETANO SPRING," PAULO MANAGED TO GO TO CUBA WHERE HE STAGED A PLAY BY LEFTIST PORTUGUESE PLAYWRIGHT BERNARDO SANTARENO AND TAUGHT COURSES IN ACTING. HE IS REGARDED IN PORTUGAL TODAY AS THE HERO OF THE THEATER WORLD AND THE NUMBER ONE PROMOTER OF PORTUGUESE CULTURAL TIES WITH CUBA. HE
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IS AN EXCELLENT ACTOR AND PLAYED THE ROLE OF WILLIE LOMAN IN MILLER'S "DEATH OF A SALESMAN." FEW OBSERVERS HERE DOUBT THAT HE IS A COMMUNIST.

9. WITH PAULO IN CHARGE OF THEATRICAL ACTIVITIES OF FNAT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT FNAT WILL BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF PROPAGANDA IN THE PROVINCES BY MEANS OF POLITICAL PLAYS, LECTURES, COLOQUIA AND THE LIKE.

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